Ban on smoking

1101. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to conform to the directives on tobacco smoking issued from time to time by the World Health Organisation;

(b) whether there is a proposal afoot to intensify the campaign against cigarette smoking in the public media; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating a date by which the smoking of tobacco in any form will be completely banned in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to bring a comprehensive lagislation to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products including a ban on use/consumption of tobacco in public places.

Indian Red Cross Matters

1102. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) have been continuously violating, since 1992, the statutory rules 4(1), 4(3), 5(3), 5(10), 6, 7, 8, 6(1), 7(2), 7(9), 12, 12(3) framed under the IRCS Act, 1920;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all major Red Cross matters are decided arbitrarily and consequently there are growing financial and administrative indiscipline and increasing Government interference; and

(c) the steps taken so far to restore the autonomous/voluntary character of the Indian Red Cross Society?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) According to the information received from the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), the factual position statutory Rules-wise, is as under:—

Rule 4 (1) and 4 (3): These Rules relate to the Annual General Meeting of IRCS and the business to be transacted therein. The action to convene such a meeting in the first quarter of 1996 has been initiated by IRCS.

Rule 5(3) and 5(10): These Rules relate to the Managing Body of IRCS. The Managing Body of IRCS has been meeting from time to time to transact important business of IRCS. The decisions regarding participation of IRCS in the meetings of the International Federation of Red Cross And Red Crescent Societies have had the approval/ ex-post facto approval of the Managing Body of IRCS.

Rule 6, 7, 8 and 7(2) and 7(9): The Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Medical and Maternity & Child Welfare Committee of IRCS were constituted under these Rules. The matters relating to the finances of the IRCS are placed before the Finance Committee/Managing Body.

Rule No. 12 & 12 (3): All transactions relating to the investing of the IRCS are done with the approval of the Treasurer/ Chairman of IRCS and duly reported to the Finance Committee/Managing Body for ratification.

(b) No, Sir. According to the information received from IRCS, nothing is done arbitrarily so as to result in administrative/financial indiscipline.

(c) According to IRCS, it continues to retain its autonomous/voluntary character.

Funds for Rural Development programmes in Maharashtra

1103. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of funds for various rural development Programmes in